

CPD Course in Fiction Writing

Open Learning Programme Information

COURSE CONTENT

The course is divided up into 8 units, as follows:

Introduction

- Content
- Style
- Techniques
- Marketing

Unit 1 - The Short Story

- How to study and analyse it
- Studying the market
- Overseas markets
- Writing is a business
- How do I find ideas?
- How do I present my manuscript?
- Where do I find facts?

Unit 2 - The Theme

- Choosing a theme
- The basic emotion
- First or third person?
- Get out of the way!
- Reader identification
- Setting
- Style

Unit 3 - The Plot

- Plotting
- Accuracy
- The plot scheme
- A twist in the tale
- Finding a plot
- Conflict, tension & Suspense
- Balance and pace

Unit 4 - The Characters

- Your chief character
- Names
- Can people be plots?
- Characterisation
- Motives
- Mannerisms
- Minor Characters
- Hero, Heroine, Villain or Clown
- How people operate

COURSE CONTENT

Unit 5 - Getting Started

- How to start?
- The plot thickens
- Stuck?
- Handling Transitions
- How to end?
- Your work plan
- Rules are made to be broken

Unit 6 -Title & Dialogue

- Choosing a title
- Writing Dialogue
- Grammar, dialect and slang
- Types of short story
- The serial

Unit 7 - Practical Details

- Copyright
- The laws of defamation
- Agents and "Vanity Publishers"
- Keeping records
- Payment
- Income Tax
- Expenses
- Writing for radio
- Writing for television
- Presenting a TV drama

Unit 8 - Writing a Novel

- Structure
- Action, Thriller, Mystery
- Science Fiction
- Crime & Detective novels
- Historical novels
- Serious novels
- Final points

Tutor Marked Assignments

Final Assignment